

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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YOUTH LEADER ABE ELECTED TO WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the recently concluded WCC Assembly in New Delhi, Shiro Abe was elected to the WCC Central Committee. Abe (35) is a member of the Kyodan's Social Committee and is Director of the Yokosuka Christian Social Center. He lectures at Meiji Gakuin University, is a member of the Board of Trustees of Japan Church World Service, and is a Civil Liberties Commissioner of the Justice Ministry. After graduating from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo he studies at Union Seminary in New York under the first ecumenical scholarship given in Japan in 1950. He is known as a youth leader among Japanese Christians. His father is Yoshimune Abe, former Chairman of the Japan NCC, and first Japanese representative on the IMC Standing Committee.

Also at the Assembly, Chitose Kishi, President of the Lutheran Seminary and well-known for his active promotion of the Lutheran merger movement in Japan, Kazuo Kitamori, Professor at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and known as a Japanese (Nihon-teki) theologian, and Goro Maeda, Assistant Professor at Tokyo University and known as an earnest Christian in non-Church (mukyokai) circles, were elected to the Faith and Order Commission.

STANLEY JONES FINISHES MEETINGS

The Stanley Jones Evangelism Group including laymen, J.T. Seamands and J. H. Fisher, which held ninety meetings in 27 different cities throughout Japan from the middle of September to the first of December, announced that 4000 decisions had been received. Thirty-three percent of the decisions were "seekers", seven percent were baptisms, and about fifty percent were rededications.

Meetings were held on seventy-three of the seventy-nine days Dr. Jones and his colleagues were in Japan. Eight ashrams were also held.

Saburo Yasumura served as Dr. Jones' interpreter as he has done for all previous campaigns.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA CHRISTIAN RURAL LEADERS GRADUATE

The first graduation ceremony of the South-East Asia Christian Rural leaders Training Course was held at the Tsurukawa Rural Institute on December 9.

The Training Course, sponsored by the Tsurukawa Rural Institute (formerly at Hino) of the United Church of Christ in Japan at the request of the East Asia Christian Conference Inaugural Assembly held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya in 1958, is for South-east Asian rural ministers, theological students, and laymen. The course of study, which includes field work and observation trips besides classroom curriculum, gives training in "modern agricultural techniques for increased service and witness to Christ in daily work and life" and "increased effectiveness in the rural pastorate."

AVACO NEWS: MATHEW OGAWA GIVEN NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

At the recent international conferences on radio and mass communication held in India, November 6-17, Mathew S. Ogawa, Executive Director of AVACO (Christian Audio Visual Center, Tokyo), was named to three international positions related to two new communications organizations of the churches.

Mr. Ogawa became the Asia Secretary and a member of the three person editorial Committee for the publication of the new World Association for Christian Broadcasting "in process of formation". The WACB is to replace the former World Committee for Christian Broadcasting which was set up in Frankfort in 1957, and is to be much more wide in representation and with a more active program and clear structure for accomplishing its projects. Mr. Ogawa was one of two Asian members on the old WCCB.

In addition, at the third conference of the Asia Christian Mass Communications Committee, this committee also dissolved itself and a new regional committee was appointed by the East Asia Christian Conference. The new seven man committee, representing

six Asian countries, is called the Broadcasting and Audio Visual Aids Committee and is the committee of the EACC for this concern in the Asia region. Mr. Ogawa was named secretary of the new committee. The chairman is the Rev. K. D. Bhasker of India.

In connection with the formation of the WACB, Mr. Ogawa has been asked to travel to Amsterdam for a meeting in February, 1962.

CHURCH DONATED RESEARCH REACTOR FUELED

A research atomic reactor, purchased with \$400,000 donated by American Episcopal churches to Rikkyo (St. Paul's) University, recently became critical and is expected to develop a thermal output of 100 kilowatts in a week.

A ceremony marking the start of the critical test was attended by Dr. Frederic de Hoffmann, president of the General Atomic Division of the General Dynamics Corp. of the United States which manufactured the reactor, and Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita, president of St. Paul's University.

The reactor is expected to go into full operation around Dec. 18.

BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE TO JAPAN NEXT SPRING

Dr. W. H. Jackson, a Baptist missionary to Japan announced that Dr. Billy Graham will conduct a crusade in Japan next Spring.

Jackson, a member of the crusade planning committee, said that several services would be held in the Tokyo Stadium and other meetings in about 100 cities in Japan during April and May.

According to Jackson, the Texas Baptist Group will sponsor the crusade and other Baptist groups will be asked to help.

SIXTH CHRISTMAS TV CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ON THREE STATIONS

For the sixth consecutive year AVACO has arranged the broadcast of a candlelight worship service on Christmas eve over television. But whereas in previous years, the broadcast was only in the Tokyo area, this time it will be broadcast over a network of three stations, which puts it in reach of half of the seven million TV sets in Japan.

The service, led by prominent pastors of NCC-related churches, and including the choir of the Tokyo Southwest Division of the United Church of Christ and the Tokyo Children's Choirs, will be telecast at 11:15 p.m., December 24 (Japan time) over channel 6 in the Tokyo area and its related local stations in Nagoya and Osaka.

The service is sponsored by the Hakuyosha Cleaning Company, planned by AVACO, and produced by the TV network staff.

The next issue will be January 15.

